AMENDMENT TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Please insert the following new paragraph between the title of this application and line 5 on page 1:

FIELD OF INVENTION

Please insert the following new paragraph between lines 10 and 11 on page 1:

BACKGROUND AND SUMMARY OF INVENTION

Please insert the following new paragraphs between lines 10 and 11 on page 2:

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE ACCOMPANYING DRAWINGS

FIG. 1 depicts the structural formula of an unsaturated lactam identified as UCL-1 below;

FIG. 2 depicts the structural formula of an unsaturated lactam identified as UCL-2 below;

FIG. 3 depicts the structural formula of an unsaturated lactam identified as UCL-3 below; and

FIG. 4 depicts the structural formula of an unsaturated lactam identified as UCL-4 below.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

Please amend the following paragraph on lines 18-25 of page 3 as follows:

It has surprisingly been found that the presence of nickel in the distillation column has proved to be the cause of the deterioration of the quality of the caprolactam during said distilling inasmuch as nickel readily convert caprolactam into so-called unsaturated lactams (UCL) mainly into the compound depicted in FIG. 1 and denoted ~~on the formula sheet~~ as UCL-1. ~~On the formula sheet, four~~ Four of such unsaturated lactams with their structural formulae are depicted in FIG. 1 through FIG. 4 ~~drawn~~ and denoted as UCL-1, UCL-2, UCL-3 and UCL-4, respectively. The PAN number is a measure of the oxidizable impurities content in caprolactam. The UCL's inter alia belong to the oxidizable impurities.